

DOESN'T YOUR WATCH DESERVE A CLEANING?

(See Below)



VOL. 2



CALGARY, FEBRUARY 22, 1918

Price 5 cents per copy. No. 7

"THE MIGHT OF THE PEOPLE!"

Tremble before your chattels,
Lords of the scheme of things!
Fighters of all earth's battles,
Ours is the might of kings!
Guided by seers and sages,
The world's heart-beat for a drum,
Snapping the chains of ages,
Out of the night we come!

Lend us no ear that pities!
Offer no almoner's hand!
Alms for the builders of cities!
Oh, when will you understand?
Down with your pride of birth
And your golden gods of trade!
A man is worth to his mother, Earth,
All that a man has made!

We are the workers and makers!
We are no longer dumb!
Tremble, you Shirkers and Takers!
Sweeping the earth—we come!
Ranked in the world-wide dawn,
Marching into the day!
The night is gone and the sword is
drawn
And its scabbard is thrown away!

—JOHN G. NEIHARDT,
Western Poet and Novelist.

SOCIAL UNREST IN BRITAIN

Difficult forces are drawing to a head—
industrial and political forces. I speak of
what I know. Let these forces, maddened
by the incompetence of rulers, by strain
and suffering, by profiteering and glaring
social contrasts, bitten by the sharp tooth
tooth of hunger, once get out of hand,
and rulers will understand, perhaps too
late, to what a sorry pass they have
brought their country.

W. C. ANDERSON,
Labor M.P.

THING'S WE HATE TO THINK ABOUT!

The Second Coming of Dr. Oliver.

Moody putting the "—ell" in Drum-
heller.

A Union Government Next - of - Kin
Association.

The Struggle of the C.P.R. to make
ends meet.

Coolie Labor in Canada.

The high Coste of Sifton's gas.

War bread in Calgary.

Jack Reid addressing the Calgary
Ministerial Association.

Billy Sunday's description of "War"!

The one-man car in a cold snap.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS THE WORLD'S HOPE.

"More and more," says Mr. H. G. Wells, "do I drift to the conclusion that in a great Labor party and in that alone lies the political hope of our country. Upon the Labor side alone do there seem to be general ideas and broad views of the future of the world. If Labor has one fault more conspicuous than another, it is modesty. In foreign politics in particular Labor, with a profound confidence in the class of education that goes on at Oxford and Cambridge, still consents to see our national interests fooled about with by barren-minded, tradition-worshipping people, like the Cecils, futile reactionaries like Balfour and their cousins and friends.

"These people in power have no ideas adequate to the needs of the present time. They dread revolution more than German militarism. Their idea of a war aim is to make the world safe for gentility.

"The hope of the world is the League of nations. Let us insist upon that. Not only German militarism, but English Toryism and every class and clique every antiquated institution, every cant of loyalty and every organized prejudice must be sacrificed to the great idea of a world-peace and a united mankind."

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CURRENT HISTORY

THE MENACE OF NORTHCLIFFE.

Slowly, but surely, during the past few years has been growing up in Britain a most sinister influence. By the genius of an unscrupulous man, a powerful and dangerous institution, known as the Amalgamated Press, has been built up step by step, until it is almost a dominating factor in the life and development of a great nation.

Starting with the publication "Answers," thirty-five years ago, R. L. Harmsworth (now Viscount Northcliffe), set out to gain control of a large section of the press in the United Kingdom, and by tireless energy and persistence and with the aid of attractive gambling schemes to enhance circulation has attained the object of his desire. The real foundation of this huge monopoly was laid in 1896, when the Amalgamated Press was formed.

Its Ramifications--

From all the great centers in Britain, every day in the year, Sunday included, are published the organs of Lord Northcliffe. They all pursue the same policy echo the same cries, and each and every one is a true reflection of the Northcliffe mind. In the days before the war, it was generally conceded that the Harmsworth influence was a strong factor in the moulding of public opinion, but the war, with its issues of grave national importance, provided this man with his opportunity, and he has not been slow to grasp it. Hysterically jubilant, or dolefully pessimistic, as the occasion demanded, his publications have consistently played on the sentiments and passions of the mob, and by the dissemination of carefully selected news have created a psychology of distrust and hatred to the German people that will take years to allay.

Cabinets look forward with apprehension to his criticism, and even Premiers cannot afford to ignore his behests. He issues his commands and immediately a horde of scribes in London, Liverpool, Manchester, Bristol, Edinburgh, Belfast and Newcastle vehemently attack a public man or a government through their inspired editorials. Volumes of abuse are literally hurled at the object of attack, and a frenzied populace are driven hither and thither blindly following the dictates of an autocrat, who, continually posing as a great deliverer, is ever consciously seeking to strengthen his stranglehold on public opinion.

Several cabinet crises have been precipitated by this insidious "power behind the throne" since the outbreak of war, and the government has been bullied and harried into hasty acts, which more mature thought and consideration have proved to be costly blunders.

An Insidious Means of Propaganda--

The young and impressionable mind is by no means neglected by this public benefactor. Through the means of such publications as "The Funny Wonder," "Comic Cuts," and "Chips," with their vulgar and debasing "fun" the humorous faculty of the child is carefully cultivated. Journals, like the "Boys' Friend," "The Marvel," "The Union Jack," with their ill-written detective stories, prize-fight stories, are all calculated to develop in the youth the "Funny Wonder" type of mind, that will fit him in more mature years to appreciate the subtleties of the

London "Daily Mail" and the erudition of the "Times."

Masterpieces of nauseating sentimentality, among which are "The Heart-ease Library," "Forget Me Not" and "The Home Companion" stock the youthful mind with frivolous information, and decide the course of love adventures through their "confidential chat" columns. By means of "self educators," popular history books of the drum and trumpet variety, etc., etc., this "guide, philosopher and friend" of mankind seeks to train up the youth in the way it should go. The credulity of millions of readers is exploited to increase the wealth and power of an individual, and a grateful sovereign is eventually impelled to elevate him to the Peerage in recognition of his services to the country!

National Hatred Encouraged--

The "Times" refused absolutely to publish the now famous Lansdowne letter, and sought to ignore it, but when it became evident that the publication of the letter had made a tremendous impression on the people of the world, Lord Northcliffe delivered himself of the following opinion: "I regard Lord Lansdowne's letter as entirely uncalled for. No doubt he wishes to create such an effect as was produced by Lord Roseberry's Chesterfield speech in the midst of another war. I regard the letter as one which entitles Lord Lansdowne to the thanks of every true-hearted German, Austrian, Turk and Bulgarian."

Immediately, the numerous journalistic satellites of this Peer burst into vituperative abuse of Lord Lansdowne, and by means of insinuations and innuendo of the meanest kind, threw grave reflections on his character.

The Northcliffe Press has sedulously fostered the "knock-out blow" attitude in regard to the war, and any approach to a conciliatory tone is viewed with alarm by them and strenuously opposed. To say that the greatest human tragedy in the history of civilization is being capitalized for the most sordid ends is but to state an obvious fact. The most attractive side of warfare is emphasized, and deeds of horrible cruelty are lauded, and the unwilling participants eulogized for bravery and decorated with journalistic "iron crosses." Morning, noon and night, the minions of the Amalgamated Press are engaged in scenting out and dishing up to the public embellished exploits saturated with human blood.

Is it any wonder that a peaceful settlement of the present strife is beginning to be despaired of when such a potent force is working under the surface to stimulate national hatred and suspicion? Airplanes, submarines, warships, cannon and all the paraphernalia of war are breath to the nostrils of this newspaper trust.

The war lords of Germany have, in those journalistic hacks, very active allies indeed, and use those publications to prove to the German people the undying hatred of the British and their stern resolve to crush and humiliate Germany.

A Firmly Established Bulwark of Reaction--

Progressive and radical newspapers, such as the London "Daily News," the "Manchester Guardian" and the "Nation" are doing their utmost to combat this propaganda, but its tentacles are so far-reaching, and its influence so firmly

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entrenched that it is doubtful if the hard work of those journals will be able to stem the tide.

The popularity of the Harmsworth periodicals cannot be doubted. By n-citements to gambling, by pictures and stories which are models of vulgar hideousness, they appeal to a certain type of mind which is by no means uncommon. Millions of people take their cue, and form their opinions from the gospel according to Northcliffe, and this is perhaps the most discouraging sign from a progressive point of view.

Some years ago, the Labor Party, recognizing the growing evil of the jingoistic press, started a daily newspaper in an attempt to raise the standard of journalism and to provide the masses of the working class with a mouthpiece that would give an unbiased account of world events, voice their aspirations and espouse the cause of true democracy. Lack of support and apathy on the part of the people, were the means of its failure, and its untimely end was the subject of much rejoicing in the capitalistic press, which from the start circulated stories of corruption and mismanagement on the part of the promoters.

The Only Effective Cure--

The remedy for all this lies only with the people themselves. While there is a universal demand for cheap twaddle and sensationalism in journalism, a specialist in these will always be called forth to cater to the popular taste, and thereby gain riches and titles for himself.

Over and over again in the history of the press in Britain courageous men, with a new message, have stepped forth to deliver it to the people, but their souls have been crushed and their hopes blasted by the very class whom they wished to serve.

Education only will develop a more enlightened public opinion, which will not be satisfied with the tawdry, superficial and conventional periodicals so much in demand to-day.

* * *

TRUST THE PEOPLE.

The reaction against the "extermination at any cost" and the "knock-out blow" extremists in Great Britain is daily growing in strength. No longer are the people satisfied to accept without question the bombastic speeches of Sir E. Carson and Lloyd George, or the evasive explanations of Mr. Balfour.

Recent events in the British House of Commons demonstrated the growing influence of the small faction composed of Labor men, Socialists and Radicals, who for more than a year have been urging on the Government the necessity for a clear and definite statement of war aims

so that peace negotiations might be hastened. Moderate Liberals, like Sir Wm. Collins, and even a prominent Tory, Lord Henry Bentinck, have joined in bitterly denouncing the Government for the secret arrangements, agreements and treaties, entered into with Allied powers. The publication of the secret treaties by the Russian Bolsheviks created dismay and indignation throughout the country, and even the House of Commons was roused to a pitch of excitement seldom equalled in the history of that august body. Mr. Ponsonby and several Labor members vehemently attacked the Government for its double dealing and underhand methods, and Mr. Balfour's evasive and inadequate reply was received in blank silence by a very much perturbed assembly.

Fed on the belief that they were sacrificing their best manhood for the vindication of Democratic ideals, the British people are beginning to ask if this stealthy secret diplomacy can be justified.

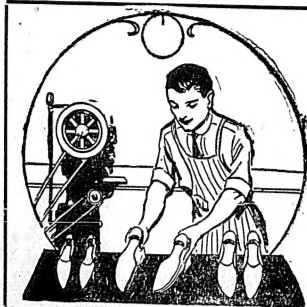
The demand is growing more insistent every day for a true and honest statement of facts in regard to war operations. Press reports have been carefully circulated during the past year, which we know now to have been absolutely false. The submarine menace has been minimized, and a gullible public has been assured from pulpit, press and platform that the production of ships has been greater each month than the losses. Now, when the truth has to be stated, we are informed that the loss of tonnage through submarine activities in 1917 was three times as much as the joint output of Britain and America, and twice as great as the total output of the world's shipyards! The people are asking, in no uncertain voice, that they be taken into the confidence of the Government instead of being treated as children or mental defectives, whom the truth must be kept from at any cost.

Of course, this does not mean that military operations likely to benefit the enemy are to be published. It is simply a growing determination on the part of the people who are making the sacrifices, and bearing the hardships of this terrible war, to see that these principles, for which so much blood is being shed, are made the guiding motives of their representatives. They are at last awaking to the danger of leaving the grave issues of the war solely in the hands of the Balfours, Cecils, Lloyd Georges, Milners and Curzons, and are asking to be consulted in matters so vitally affecting their future destiny.

* * *

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"There is no wealth but life. That country is the richest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy human beings."—Ruskin.

NEW LEADERSHIP REQUIRED The world stands to-day at the parting of the ways, between a commercialized civilization, based on capitalistic production for profit, and a democratized society making towards the well-being and service of all. In Great Britain, France, Russia and other countries, there are arising political organizations of a character capable of leading the nations in the new social order just born. If this were not so, the reconstruction after the war would be carried on by those who hold office to-day, and who are rendered incapable both by their outlook and affiliations to direct the affairs of a democratic society.

If the war ends, as we sincerely hope it will, within the next five years, Canadian affairs will be directed by our Union Government, and in the best interests of Canada we deem it advisable to point out that this administration cannot handle satisfactorily the reconstruction which we hope for as a result of the war. To begin with, it lacks the democratic spirit, for no man with the spirit of the democrat would have allowed himself to have been elected under the most undemocratic election act known in the history of the Canadian people. Nevertheless, there was no protest, so far as we are aware, from any member of the Unionist party. Some of them, such as Mr. Carvell, and Mr. Crerar, supposed to be ardent democrats, took their seats without the slightest compunction. We fail to see how it is pos-

sible for a group of men, content to accept power obtained by the use of such methods, can ever be of service to a democracy.

The great question of Canada's destiny as a nation is thrusting itself to the forefront in public opinion, and must of necessity be dealt with in the immediate future. On this question the leader of the present government is well known as a decided Imperialist, and would sacrifice Canada's distinctive position among the nations of the world for the sake of Imperialistic projects. Since Imperialism strikes at the very root of the democratic principles for which the Allied nations claim to be fighting, and involves continued preparation for war against the alignment of other nations which will inevitably follow, and thus renders an International Parliament for the settlement of world affairs impossible, Any government pledged to such a policy cannot lead Canada in the future.

Public opinion would seem to indicate that the cessation of capitalistic production and of all monopoly and exploitation must follow peace. In this respect also our government would be unable to deal with the situation, married as it is to the financial interests of the country. It is unthinkable that those who so ably financed the recent Union Government campaign will relinquish their hold upon the people of Canada. They have the first claim upon the services of our administration.

* * *

THE IRON HEEL The Drumheller coal strike has taught us something of government inefficiency, and incidentally impressed upon us the fact that iron heels are not peculiar to Potsdam. Will anyone say that the strike at Drumheller will help to win the war? Is it not clear to everyone that the nation at this time can ill afford to close down even for one day any one of its essential industries? The government, pretending to see this, appointed a man to see that the coal mines were operated, and that all labor difficulties should be adequately settled. This gentleman has seen fit to take no action in the Moody strike. Hence, hundreds of men are out of work, and the nation is suffering thereby.

Now is the time for the government to depose the Kaisers of industry and take over the mining industry, recognizing that it is absolutely essential, not only to the winning of the war, but also to the national well-being in times of peace

PATRONAGE AND THE SENATE After the Harmer appointment, and in the face of the enthusiastic promises

to abolish patronage, so recently made, some statement from the government was naturally expected. Sir Robert Borden rushes to the rescue of his party's name and announces that an Act of Parliament will abolish patronage the first session of the Legislature. This, of course, is largely to be taken as soothing syrup to counteract the bilious effect of the Harmer appointment.

But the people of Canada will forget neither the promises nor the appointments that have been made, and generally speaking the electorate is intensely interested in the question of Civil Service reforms, and will anxiously await the oft-promised and long-looked-for remedy. It may be questioned, however, if this evil can be uprooted, by merely passing an Act, which will completely ignore one of the chief causes, namely the Canadian Senate. So long as this institution exists, it will be necessary to furnish it with membership, and the method of supplying the membership of this institution will continue to be "appointment," and those making the appointment will be the party in power, and those appointed will be the hacks of the party in power. So we doubt very much whether this vicious circle will be wiped out by the proposed Bill.

If any further reason for the abolition of the Canadian Senate were needed, surely war economy and purer politics would combine to furnish it. Can the government provide the people of Canada with an adequate excuse for maintaining an army of derelict politicians at a salary of about \$4500 a year during these times of stringent economy? Does the government expect to inspire the Canadian people to frugality and thrift while it maintains the Senate? So far as we can see, there are only two reasons for the Senate. The first is that it provides a home for Party Incapables, and renders patronage inevitable, and, second, that it is ready to block any Legislation that does not smell as musty as if it had been drawn from the archives of King Charles' time.

No! We will take Sir Robert's patronage bill seriously when the members of the Senate have been sent to the plow to increase production, and their salaries dedicated to the Patriotic Fund.

THE SHACKLES OF Under the PARTY MEMBERS present practice in our

Legislature, if a government measure is defeated, the government itself is defeated as a result. This is one of the silly and pernicious effects of the party system, and it very effectually ties the hands of members of the Legislature who, while they may have independent ideas on certain issues, neither desire to defeat the government, nor to put the country to the expense of another election.

While this state of affairs exists, there can be no hope of a democratic business administration.

This evil we believe is clearly discerned, not only by the average man, but by the average politician, and it would seem that the time has fully come to take steps towards its amendment, even though such amendment might imply certain constitutional alterations. The Morning Albertan has for some time been dealing with this question, and we hope that its editor will use his power as a representative of the people to secure the following reform: That the Legislature, being elected for a definite period, shall stay in office until the end thereof, unless on a motion of lack of confidence it be defeated; and, further, that a workable and efficient Direct Legislation Act be substituted for the ineffectual and cumbersome thing bearing that name on our statute books at the present time.

* * *

GET TOGETHER In view of the inability of our present government to direct our national affairs in the new social order that is coming, it behoves us to take steps immediately towards the creation of a political organization with the new outlook and with the democratic spirit. We are naturally led to look for leadership to the various organizations that have already proved their character and ability in previous struggles for the common weal. Among these we might mention the Socialists, the Labor Leagues and the Non-Partisans, and suggest that these at least co-operate with each other in deciding upon a common basis for the approaching political struggle. We would even go so far as to say that this is the psychological moment for all acknowledged democratic organizations in the province of Alberta to get together for the formation of a movement in the interests of the social whole.

The Labor party, which has just been newly organized in Lethbridge, intends to take the initiative in this matter, and will issue a call for all the above-mentioned political factions to attend a convention to be held in the near future. We look forward to this with considerable interest, believing that it will be a splendid example of true Non-Partisanship, and result in definite action towards a very desirable end.

* * *

HOW NOT TO DO IT.

There is no better example of modern political science as defined by Charles Dickens than that of our Direct Legislation Act. Had the designer consciously drawn up that Act with a view to prevent Direct Legislation, he could scarcely have been more successful. But the aim of the Act seems clear, namely, to convince the people that they have power while in reality all power still remains in the hands of the Legislative Assembly.

In the clause dealing with the Referendum, it says, the Government "may" withhold the enforcement of a measure, instead of "shall" leave upon the table for ninety days an Act, during which time the people may take action either to repeal or to amend the same, according to their wishes. Further, we are not permitted to initiate any legislation which involves the expenditure of public funds, which is equivalent to saying that the people of Alberta are not permitted to initiate any legislation at all, for strictly speaking, no legislation can be enacted without the expenditure of public funds, and the Speaker of the House may rule any bill out of order under the pretence that it involves the expenditure of public money.

This Act must be amended to be of service, and we urge that the Independent members of the Alberta Legislature do all in their power in the next session to secure the desired amendment.

* * *

LABOR IN CANADA The Labor AND THE WAR. organiza-

tions in Canada have agreed to co-operate with the Government for the prosecution of the war on condition that they are consulted on all questions directly affecting labor. Labor's attitude to the war and to the Government administering our national affairs has been the subject of much criticism. The criticism has come

largely from the party press for political purposes.

The attitude of the labor movement in Canada was determined and is the result of our autocratic form of Government. Labor always agreed that the war had to be continued and were prepared to go the limit in the reorganization of the State for that purpose, disagreeing with those in power only in their method of administration. Premier Borden, a man without vision, an autocrat by training, never fully realized the strength of this movement until he was brought into sharp conflict with this unknown quantity in his National Service scheme, now admitted by all to be a failure. Again, the method of financing the war, the Military Service Act, and the Election Act met with strenuous opposition because neither contained that elemental equality of sacrifice so essential to the prosecution of the war. The moral opposition to such stupid and vicious legislation has had a unifying influence on the Canadian labor movement. When the glamour of war has faded, and the attitude of labor is understood, those who had the courage to resist the popular cry will be appreciated.

Labor, again, showed its magnanimity at the Conference at Ottawa last month. They are prepared to forget the past and assist whenever they can in the effort to have increased production. A plea for increased production when it means the preservation of humanity, appeals to all who can assist. Although labor forgets in a national crisis, it never can forgive. The crimes of the past have yet to be accounted for.

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The Non-Partisan Movement

NON-PARTISAN JOTTINGS

By "Hec"

The following despatch to the Calgary Herald of recent date should prove specially interesting to producers of wealth: "Montreal, Jan. 25.—(Special despatch to the Herald).—The prospect of easier money was celebrated by a bull market in Montreal this morning. The announcement was made that the banks were authorized by the government to lend three millions to local stock brokers to facilitate trading."

Do you comprehend, wealth producers? The government now in power has further proved that it is a union of trust representatives by loaning at low rates of interest ("easier money" it is termed on the stock exchange) \$3,000,000 to stock gamblers for the purpose of boosting stock quotations of Canada's corporations.

Gamblers, or speculators, are given "easier money" to "facilitate trading," but, despite all the "hullabaloo" from Ottawa about the dire necessity of increasing food production to help win the war, no "easier money" is forthcoming from the government to aid poor farmers who greatly need "easier money" to succeed in increasing production.

"Easier money" for stock gamblers, so they can force stock of Canadian monied interests a few notches higher, but the same old eight per cent. for hard-working farmers anxious to increase production. **HURRY UP AND GET YOUR EYES OPEN, PRODUCERS!**

So long as the people continue to elect men to office who represent the big interests of the country, and not those who actually produce wealth, so long will the toilers continue to "get it in the neck" after election day.

That fifteen per cent. increase in freight rates was well worth those big campaign contributions of the C.P.R. et al to the Union (of trust companies) Government.

The farmers and city workers were not asked to contribute to the slush fund in the recent campaign. And they are not asked to partake of the after election plums, either.

When the producers realize that they have got to put their own man in office, and put up the money for their campaigns, they will begin to get results on THEIR campaign contributions. The C. P. R. farm machinery trust, et al, are getting results, all right, all right.

We hear no protests from the government in regard to the 25 per cent. increase on all farm machinery. And yet farmers are beseeched to increase production. "Consistency, thou art a jewel."

Even on the heels of the recent over-subscription to the last Victory Loan people are being urged to save every cent possible. So that we will have more money to hand over to the C. P. R., farm machinery trust, and other profiteers.

With a great blare of trumpets, it is announced that the government has taken off the duty on farm tractors. But will that help the small farmer, the one who needs assistance most, the one who cannot

even begin to think of buying a costly tractor, and who has to deprive his children of new shoes in order to make an outlay of \$250 for a binder that cost less than \$80 to make?

For fear some might forget, and as farmers are much interested in the cost of farm machinery now that they are "soaked" more than a few months ago, it might be well to recall that now famous railroad wreck before the war when a carload of binders were smashed.

The farm machinery trust wanted the railroad to pay the same price for the destroyed binders that the poor farmers were compelled to pay. But the railroad refused to be "stung" as easily as the farmers are content to be, and proved in court that the binders at that time only cost \$38 to make. And the railroad did not pay a cent more for the blamed binders, by Hec, they didn't!!

* * *

THE DANGER AHEAD!

MR. EDITOR:

John Glambeck's letter in your issue for U. F. A. week, very pointedly drove home the lesson the farmers have to learn. There is a real danger ahead of allowing the country to come under the domination of the "moneyed aristocracy." How any farmer, fighting the difficulties he has to encounter, can shut his eyes to it gets past me.

Whether or not this is the proper time to push the farmers' cause, the big interests who control the party politician has no such qualms of conscience. They push their cause all the time, and are not content with ordinary profits in war times, but must have abnormal profits in the day of sacrifice and the hour of the nation's need. Yet they are the only patriots!!

These junker interests already have a grip which will mean a strangle-hold if the people of Canada do not rouse themselves. To secure efficiency in our transportation facilities, now is the time for the government to take over all the roads. To take over the roads heavily in debt and leave the C.P.R. to operate as a private concern would be a stupendous blunder. Yet, how quickly that earnest advocate of service, R. B. Bennett, rushed to aid the C.P.R., and how glibly he talks of the tremendous difficulties to surmount, and the enormous debt it would mean. R. B. B. could have just as smoothly argued the other way, if needed.

What's the remedy? The only thing to do is to organize until strong enough to speak in no uncertain voice. Twenty thousand strong and then something effective could not only be said, but done. Can it be done? Yes. If the U. F. A. can organize 16,000 farmers for co-operation purposes, why not more than that number for the more vitally important need of the good government of the country.

Farmers, wake up! Realize your strength. Get together and face your enemies. May our membership increase tenfold. Its the only way. Your paper is driving home facts the farmer should think about. Unless he does, and then act together, he will never get any further, but remain just as he is now—in the clutches and at the mercy of the very people who are always throwing dust in his eyes.

Wishing our movement great speed and success. A MEMBER AND A FARMER.

ALLEN

THEATRE

MONDAY

TUESDAY

GEORGE BEBAN

- In -

"JULES OF THE STRONG HEART"

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

NORMA TALMADGE

- In -

"GHOSTS OF YESTERDAY"

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

CHARLES RAY

- In -

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NON-PARTISAN POLITICS

NORTH DAKOTA MEMBER WRITES ON THE LEAGUE.

News items detrimental to the Non-Partisan movement across the line find ready publication in the Party Press of Alberta. During January, C. H. McDonnell, who is a member of the North Dakota Legislature, paid a visit to his father and brothers who reside at Loughheed in this province. Mr. McDonnell purposed attending the U. F. A. convention, promising to speak at the Non-Partisan meeting held in Calgary that week. He would have given an account of the League in North Dakota, but was prevented, through being called back for a special sitting of the Legislature for January 23rd.

Since then, in writing the Secretary in Alberta, Mr. McDonnell has expressed his disappointment and regret in not being able to be present. He also mentioned a few of the arguments used against the League by the Press in Dakota, and the way in which these arguments have been refuted.

"At first they treated the League with contempt, and said 'the farmers will not stick,' but the election returns showed about 85,000 of them did stick.

"They claimed that state-owned or controlled utilities were visionary and impracticable. The answer to that at the present time, when everything is more or less abnormal, and government control of wheat and its products has been in operation only a short time, the farmer is getting 40% of the amount paid by the consumer, while under the old system he got 20%, and the consumer pays very little, if any, more than formerly. The same would undoubtedly be true of packing-house products, etc., if under as close supervision. If government control, or ownership, is more efficient in time of war, it is equally so in peace times. Where would the flour market and the transportation system of the U. S. be now if it were not for government control?

"They said the League, as an organization was not loyal, called us traitors, pro-German, and one prominent attorney of Grand Forks referred to this state as 'the black spot of the United States.' The election returns show that the state is overwhelmingly 'League,' and it is well known that our wheat crop in 1916 was around 5 bushels per acre, and in 1917 about 7½, yet North Dakota in the Liberty Loan sale last fall over-subscribed its quota 73%, the best record of any state in the Union, and no state has made a better record in Red Cross and Y. M. C. A. work than have we.

"The League stands for the recognition of union labor, so we have been accused of being I. W. W.s, and of playing into the hands of that organization.

"You probably know that one of the I. W. W. strong points is the preaching (and practice) of sabotage. I am enclosing a copy of Senate Bill No. 21, which provides a penalty of from one year to life imprisonment upon conviction of sabotage. This bill passed both houses, every League member voting for it. So much for our sympathy with the I. W. W.

"Our governor has been attacked in the most cowardly manner possible, a wrong conclusion drawn from nearly every official act of his, and yet he is recognized as the best governor the state ever had. He has spoken before the Cooper Union in New York, has been chairman of several of the big loyalty

meetings in St. Paul and Minneapolis and in a few days will go to Boston to speak before the National Education Association. Last fall, in company with State Supt. of Public Instruction, N. C. MacDonald, he toured the state for six weeks, speaking in the interests of better schools. The greater part of the trip was made by automobile, part of it through snow two feet deep.

"Governor Frazier, like many others believes that the education of the common, people is at the very foundation of our government, but, unlike many he is willing to, and does, go right out among the people and school officers and work for the advancement of that education.

"Of course, it is only the papers owned or controlled by the big interests that take a stand in opposition to the League. An organization, as well as an individual is known quite as well by its enemies as by its friends. Many of the editors of the smaller papers would be glad to come out for the League, but do not dare to. The loss of a few dollars worth of advertising often means the difference between keeping on or going under.

"That is the reason that scarcely a month passes in North Dakota that one or more farmer's papers are not started. Companies are formed, every dollar of whose stock is owned by farmers the papers are independent of outside influence.

"The League in this state is still standing on the principles laid down at its organization, and is proud of the record made by their state administration, and by the regular and special term of the Legislature.

"I shall be sure to call on you the next time I am in Alberta. In the meantime, if I can be of any assistance to you do not fail to advise me.

"It would have done your soul good to have been present at the special session just closed, to have met the scores of fine fellows from all over the State, and have gotten acquainted with our State officers. They are men whom it is a pleasure to meet."

"Yours very truly,

"C. W. McDONNELL,

"Kensal, N. Dakota."

"February 5th, 1918."

* * *

WHAT CO-OPERATION CAN SAVE!

Mr. Robert Stewart, Chairman of the Scottish Co-Operative Wholesale Society, stated that at Accra recently they had 2,400 tons of cocoa valued at £35,000 which, to bring to Britain a shipping firm wanted to charge for freight, £57,000. It could all be brought in one voyage. Freight on tea was 40s. to 50s. a ton prior to the war, but now from 270s. to 300s. was charged.

* * *

In giving more instances of Government indulgence towards profiteering, Mr. Stewart stated the co-operative societies had their own mills and granaries in Canada, but were compelled to sell their grain to a Government agent and buy it back at a cost of a commission of 3d. per quarter. Recently the Government refused an offer direct of 125,000 lbs. of tea, but bought the lot later after it had passed through hands of five agents and had increased in price 3d. per lb. This was a gift to the exploiters of £1,562-10s. on this one tea deal alone."

THE WEAPON OF LABOR.

By Will Holmes

A fisherman went forth to fish and brought no net with him, for he said: "I will buy the lake and then the fish will be mine." A miner went forth to seek for gold and brought neither pick nor shovel, for he said: "I will stake a claim, and then the gold will be mine." A soldier went forth to fight and brought no weapon, for he said: "I am patriotic enough to die for my country anyway." A working man went forth to toil, and gave his vote away, for he said: "I have a job and I can live." A farmer went forth to grow grain, and voted for a party of capitalists and profiteers, for he said: "I will grow the grain on my own land, and it will be mine."

As the net is to the fisherman, as the pick and shovel to the miner, as the weapon to the soldier, so is politics to the laborer and the farmer. For, as the fisherman's fish, and the miner's gold, and the soldier's energy are useless without the net, the tools or the weapons, so the laborer's work is useless to him, whether he be in the factory, the store, on the building, or on the farm, unless he uses his political weapon to secure to himself results.

"But," says the farmer and the laborer, "I always vote." Yes, he does vote; he votes like the fisherman who has a splendid net but he won't use it, because he already owns the fish; or the miner who buys a pick and shovel, because every miner has a pick and shovel, not because he intends to dig gold that is already his. Or the soldier, who fires his gun with the barrel against his shoulder and the stock toward the enemy. To cast a vote is not an evidence of being in politics. More often it is an evidence of being out of politics.

There are at least three kinds of voters who are not in politics. One is the man whose vote is for sale. The man who buys votes is in politics. He is also in business; buying votes is a better proposition than any other kind of gold brick, because for ten dollars you can get a man to submit willingly and enthusiastically to being bled for four-fifths of the fruits of all his production for the next five years. True, he is likely to be bled anyway, but to submit to it freely for such a consideration is like pleading for damnation. That ten dollars looks like a good catch, but it has already consumed all the spawn; but he is just as wealthy—he owns the lake. Then there is the voter who is on the fence all through a campaign. The Liberal comes with his gold nugget, and it looks good. He will vote Liberal. The Conservative comes with his, and it looks equally good, and the labor candidate, and the Non-Partisan, and the Socialist and the Independent; they all come with their nuggets. Each of these is in politics, but the chap they are after owns the claim, he is not using his tools. Then the day before election, the gangster prohibition swoops down with the coin; there is lots of printers' ink, and a loose tongue on every corner, and the neighborhood is painted red. They are hypnotizing the jelly-fish, non-political, fence decorators.

And, finally, we have that survival of antiquity, that mental monstrosity, that baffles the twentieth century western mind—the party man. The hide-bound, dyed-in-the-wool type, who would vote for the party if they put up a yellow dog. Like the man who told his minister that to him, in order to be a Christian, a man must belong to the Orange Lodge and vote the Conservative ticket. Did you attend the Non-Partisan meeting last night?

KAISERISM IN ALBERTA



OUTCLASSSED!!

Despotism is not by any means a peculiar attribute of Kaisers and Czars. At a time when the necessities for fuel was never greater, Alberta has had the spectacle of a mine operator tying up production of an important coal centre because his dictatorship is threatened by a proposal to recognize the Miners' Union. This is an example of the "Iron Heel" which our press condemns in Germany.

A man was asked during the recent campaign. "No chance," he replied. "You don't find me listening to that kind of stuff." For the same reason he didn't attend the Liberal meeting, but at the Unionist meeting he had a seat on the platform, and his only regret was that the battle was not fought out on straight party lines. This type accepts the party leader holus bolus without question. If he says no prohibition, then prohibition is a hideous injustice, infringing on personal liberty. He would rather see his party go down to defeat than to support prohibition. And, in the next campaign, when his party leader for party purposes puts the prohibition plank in his platform, our friend always believed that liquor was a curse, and never could understand how it was ever tolerated in a civilized state. He belongs to that solid block of conscienceless, soulless and blind voters who are cyphers in public affairs, and pride themselves on being politicians. They are fighters with the gun pointed against themselves.

The big railroad company, steamship company, trading company, grain company, lumber company, are all in politics. Each will support the Liberals, the Conservatives, or the devil himself, if he represents their policy. That's why they are big companies. Everybody is in politics, except the little fellow, the wage-earner, the farmer. They try to find out which policy is the best without having a definite policy of their own. That is why they are little fellows.

And yet, my fellow, "little fellows," the hope of the future is with us. We have nothing, therefore, we can lose nothing. We have no great organization to break away from; no big bank account to dispose of; no set of interests to consider. We are free to form a policy and build a civilization. We could form a labor trust, and we have as much right to do that as the railway magnates have to form a railway trust; that is their game; but would it be a success. At first sight we say yes, it has been successful for them. But has it? Is life satisfying if it is heaping burdens on others? The world has enough trusts. The last word in trust forming would be a trust of farmers; a trust that could do with wheat what the Standard Oil Co has done with oil. The farmers could break the backs of humanity if they went into the trust-forming business; but the farmers would find little pleasure in doleing out a pittance to a humanity of hunch-backs. We have never learned how to be selfish like the big fellows—selfish and inhuman. We are free to frame up a great, unselfish, humanitarian policy, and we can force the big fellow to adopt it, just as he has forced us to adopt his policy. When it comes to votes, we are a lot bigger than he is, and he will thank us for defeating him, because labor being the foundation of all production, can put mankind on a solid basis that will ensure the joy of all. It's up to us. The capitalist can never do it. Get a policy; take it into politics, and see it through. "Politics is the business of the people."

WILL HOLMES.

SOLILOQUIES OF A NON-PARTISAN

The highest patriotism is the patriotism that seeks the good of the people who are indispensable to the state, i.e., the producers.

* * *

If the N.P.L. is not organized to suit you, criticize and improve it. It is up to you.

* * *

The farmer voting and working against the N.P.L., is the farmer voting and working to defeat himself.

* * *

We voted against the N.P.L. because we missed the brass band and the flag waving. We don't know real patriotism when we see it.

* * *

How would the Kaiser have voted? To enrich a few capitalists at the expense of the farmers and producers. He always voted that way at home.

* * *

You can have a say in the N.P.L. for \$15.00. It will cost you about \$15,000,000 to have a say in the Union Government.

* * *

We should have kept quiet in the recent election. The lords of creation did not hand us down permission to run any candidates.

* * *

If it doesn't matter who rules over us, why not the Kaiser? Since we are particular let us rule ourselves. Sign up with the N.P.L.

What Our Members Say

Short, Snappy Letters for Publication from our Members will be Gladly Received

AN ADVOCATE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE.

Lathom, Alta., Feb. 15, '18.

EDITOR ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN:

Recently our papers have been full of articles, editorials and letters on the fixed price of wheat. From one standpoint it is too high, and from the other too low, and all continue the wrangling without considering the basic facts. The consumer says: "I know a farmer who raised wheat for 80 cents, and made a living before the war. The price of wheat has gone up 250%, while the price of the things the farmer must buy to carry on his work has gone up not more than 100% at the most. Therefore, it is plain you are all a bunch of miserable pro-German profiteers." Then a farmer from Haystack Corners writes in indignation that he finds it almost impossible to get the necessities of life for his family, let alone any of those luxuries such as all city people have, "and if some of those blokes would come out of their warm offices to my place and follow me around from 4.20 a.m. till 10 p.m., etc., you know the tune."

You, no doubt, have heard the well-worn story of the school boy stumbling along in first-year Latin, who was reproved by the Professor in words to this effect: "Shame on you! When Thomas Jefferson was your age, he was reading Virgil." To which the boy replied, "Yes, and when he was your age he was President of the United States."

Evidently there are differences in individual ability, in local conditions as to soil and climate, and in advantages which one may have over another in many ways. Now, the basis on which industrial society has always been run is completely summed up in the one short sentence, "every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost." But suddenly we are involved in a war so great there is no historical comparison; our one object is to win; greater production of food is necessary; wheat becomes the center of interest; the devil must not be allowed to get the very hindmost producer now, for even his few bushels are important. In the crisis, humanity, as at present organized, could think of only one way out. Fix a price for all high enough so that the least efficient producer will try to stay in the game, and let the big fellow make his haul while we throw up our hands and say: "I can't help it."

The war would have been over long ago if we of the Allied nations had been ready to stand together in that day of opportunity, and say: "To-day we will begin anew. Our rule will be, 'From everyone according to his ability, to everyone according to his need.'" This is the ideal toward which we must work, and away from that devil stuff before we can truthfully say that we are even making an effort in the direction of social justice.

It is all well enough to squeal like a stuck pig over the 15% increase in freight rates, which the already prosperous C.P.R. is to get, but the situation is this: We have three roads in Western Canada, one paying dividends and piling up a great surplus, the other two not making expenses (Jefferson and the school boy again). It is considered necessary to the common good that all three roads remain in operation, and the much berated Union Government has adopted the same scheme for them that was dished up for the grain-growers.

You say the railroads should be nationalized, but if the roads why not the farms? The boys will ask us this when they come back from France. They will want to know why it is they have no ownership in the country for which they have risked everything. A short time ago in Calgary the writer met a wounded veteran under the more or less informal circumstances connected with a Y.M.C.A. shower bath. He talked social revolution in the same tone of voice in which we talk about our dinner.

Respectfully yours,
C. D. PRESTON.

WHO HELPS THE FARMER !!

Steveville, Alta.

MR. EDITOR:

Indications point to a bumper crop this year. But lots of ground is not yet in shape, and much hard work is ahead for the farmer. Oats for the horses is a scarce feed in this district, and I don't see how farmers can pay \$1.00 per bushel for oats. It would have helped the production campaign if the price of oats had been controlled same as wheat, instead of allowing the speculator to buy oats cheap and then drive the price up to a \$1.00 per bushel.

Also there are hogs in this vicinity going to market, or the pork barrel, because the farmer cannot pay such a high price for oats to feed growing pigs on. And yet we get lectured at and shouted at to raise more hogs and save all the young brood sows. To feed growing pigs on oats at \$1.00 per bushel means they will eat their profits once and a third over.

Again, I want to know why the Union Government do not control the machine companies and prevent them from driving the price of farm implements higher when already high. Is it to help win the war, or is it to help the "Win-the-War Government"?

I know one thing—that it's not helping the farmer. Yet they are always advising us what to do, and telling us the farmer is the backbone of the country. I hope the farmer will learn before the next election what he can do and how much can be done by sticking together. Let our votes count and do our work.

The government seems to favor putting a direct tax on farm lands. Will it also tax city property and the idle land in cities and the many million acres in the country held by big corporations? I guess not. Isn't the farmer doing enough by fighting and producing the foodstuffs. Why ask him to make implement companies rich beyond all count, and then face him with the great war debt.

Now, farmers, we need to watch what is going on for the next few months. Just get well posted and then do some thinking. We might then get to realize that none but ourselves will remedy matters, and that can only be done by organizing for political purposes and joining the Farmers' Non-Partisan League.

Yours, etc.,
"H. E. F."

THE TAP-ROOT OF WAR.

"The dynastic system is the tap-root of war. It stands on three props: force, intrigue, and superstition; militarism, secret diplomacy; and the state church."—Professor David Starr Jordan, Stanford University, Cal.

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LIFE AND WORK

DEMOCRATIC DIPLOMACY

The announced visit to Paris of Ramsay MacDonald, the Labor Leader in Britain, together with Camille Huysmans, the Hollander secretary of the Socialist-Internationale, to confer with the French Socialists, is evidence that behind the scenes an earnest effort is being made to find the greatest common measure of agreement on the question of war aims and peace policy among the Allied democracies.

The publication of the Memorandum of Labor's War Aims at Xmas, and its acceptance by a representative conference of all sections of the organized Labor movement in Britain, started not only the international democratic leaders, but also the Allied governments on the task of raising and co-ordinating their aims. During January, Mr. Thomas, the late Minister of Munitions in France and acknowledged leader of the French Socialists, conferred with Arthur Henderson in England, and also with many of the British ministers. Premier Lloyd-George's speech at the Labor Conference was more reasonable and moderate than expected, being virtually a practical acceptance of labor's war aims and foreign policy, and one of the outstanding utterances of the war.

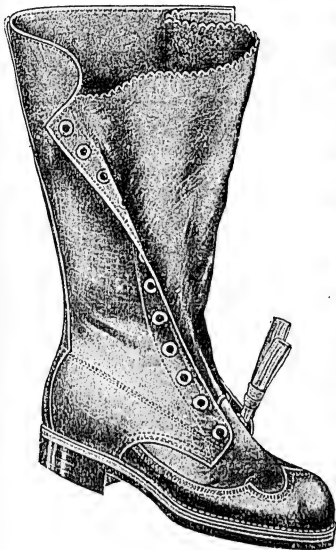
Common ground thus being found the next step in the development of

this democratic diplomacy is the assimilation of French and British war aims, and the promotion of an inter-Allied conference, so that agreement can be formulated and arrangements made for a full international conference at which a moral ultimatum may be presented to the democracies of the Central Powers. Thus the call of one democracy to another will come over the heads of governments.

The one outstanding issue upon which an accommodation of views must be sought concerns the future of Alsace-Lorraine. The British Labor view of this question is that the problem of the future government of the two provinces be determined by a plebiscite of the inhabitants, but nothing is said about the conditions of such a plebiscite. The French Socialists, while accepting the principle of the plebiscite under proper safe-guards, do not renounce their claim to the "disannexation" of the two provinces. This advance is made rather than allow the war to be prolonged, in order to wrest them from the enemy's grasp. Herein lies the way for the dividing point between the French and German Socialists for over three years to be bridged. It would not, in our opinion, be a crime against democracy and peace if the French Government waived their demand for an unconditional restitution of the disputed territory.

This is an acknowledged delicate point, but some action in the direction outlined would go far in preparing ground for peace. It is certain that with the changed outlook there will be no more mad refusals of passports to sincere men, enabling them to attend an international conference as was suggested last summer at Stockholm. In the light of events to-day, how much that blunder has cost humanity cannot be computed. In the ranks of labor in all countries there are many keen intellects, and when common ground for peace is sought, it is safe to predict that some way out of this welter of bloodshed can be found.

The new spirit brought by labor to the new year has done much in creating a temper of reasonableness and willingness to examine and discuss terms, and will go far towards securing some settlement. War, at best, is a gigantic gamble, and the stakes are the lives of millions of men, as well as the material resources of the nations. The right terms of settlement are those terms that will put the world on the best footing for equitable and harmonious life in the future, and set free the most effective forces for repairing the damage and healing the wounds produced by the war. For such terms, the real peacemakers will work.



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FACTORY LEGISLATION Calgary has been agitated for some time over the enforcement of the Factories Act. Shop and Factory legislation has always been a source of irritation to employers of labor. History shows that factory legislation has not only irritated employers but politicians also. The first factory Act introduced in Great Britain (1829) caused some stormy scenes in the British House of Commons. From that date until 1847, when the ten-hour day bill actually became law, the fight between landowners and manufacturers continued. During the discussion on the ten-hour bill, the manufacturer accused the landlord of being generous to the wage-earners at his (the manufacturer's) expense. They also claimed that any attempt to limit the hours of employment would retard the industrial development of the country, also drive capital out of the country, etc.

Many changes have taken place in the industrial life of the nation since the ten-hour day became law. Britain has become a great commercial nation; hours of labor have been still further reduced, not so much by legislative enactment as by the organized effort of the working class.

Let us change the setting to the City Hall of Calgary, in the year of our Lord 1918, seventy years afterwards. A commission was appointed to investigate the working of the Factories Act. The manufacturers engage the services of a corporation lawyer, who is also an employer of labor, to present their case. Imagine the surprise of those who are familiar with industrial history to hear this worthy lawyer use the arguments that were used against the ten-hour bill of 1847. Calgary would cease to be a thriving town if the Factories Act was enforced and the girls in stores only worked ten hours per day. Then, again, capital would not come to Calgary; a retail grocer in order to evade the law would build his store beyond the city limits; the final plea being that the nation was at war, and it behooved us all to work long hours until the war is over. "Wait until after the war."

Time brings many changes. Time however, has but little effect on a conservative lawyer.

CONTEMPTIBLE TACTICS

While it is desirable that the military Service Act be enforced with absolute impartiality, some of the methods adopted by the local registration authorities, however, effective they may be, nevertheless are open to strong criticism.

According to a notice appearing in the columns of the Morning Albertan an appeal is made to all citizens, as a patriotic duty, to file any information they have about any man whom they think is an evader. All such information is treated in confidence, and it is not even necessary for the informer to sign his name.

Surely this is an appeal to the lowest elements in human character. It is quite conceivable that people under a strong patriotic impulse would provide information in regard to evaders, but why should they wish to hide their identity if they are impelled by pure motives?

People who are actuated by jealousy or petty spite are thus presented with an opportunity to score off an enemy. They can with impunity provide information false or otherwise, in regard to men who have received exemptions, with the comfortable assurance that the victim will at least be put to more or less inconvenience and publicity, while they themselves cannot be called to account if their information is proved to be maliciously false.

A rival in business, if his competitor happens to be an exempted man, has, through the medium of the registrar, a splendid means of obtaining private revenge. All that is necessary is for him to write an anonymous letter, making certain charges, which will have to be investigated in order to discover their truth or falsity, which, of course, causes a great deal of annoyance, whether the charges are justified or not. One such case as that cited has already been noted by the registrar, and we, therefore, suggest, in the interests of British fair play, that no action should be taken on information supplied unless the informer submits his name and address. Those claiming to be ultra-patriotic should not be averse to the publication of their virtues.

* * *

WHICH IS RIGHT?

"The Allies know that Lenine and several of his confederates are adventurers of German-Jewish blood and in German pay. Their sole object is to exploit the ignorant Russian masses in the interest of their own employers in Berlin."

—THE TIMES, London, Eng.

* * *

"It is grossly untrue that the Bolsheviks are in German pay. Many of their leaders have been in prison in Germany for preaching armed rebellion against the German Government. Their official organ also attacks the German government as strongly as it attacks Allied Imperialists."

—THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN, Eng.

* * *

THE PRICE OF WAR!

Sir Arthur Griffith-Boscawen, (Under-Secretary) says the Ministry of Pensions in Britain is doing its best to fit disabled soldiers to become wage-earners again. Considering the fact that the Ministry had over one million cases on the books, and that number was increasing by 15,000 every week, it was surprising more mistakes were not made than had occurred.

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CANADA A NATION

ORGANIZATION OR QUIT.

With hushed expectancy the Canadian people have waited two months for some drastic move by the Union Government towards a reorganization of Man-Power and Woman-Power, eliminating useless and non-productive occupations, so that work of national importance may be carried on with the utmost efficiency. We do not wish to assume the role of carping critics, but does any sane person believe that the achievements of the Government since it came into power bring Canada any nearer its ideal of increased production and limitation of wasted energy?

It looks as if our statesmen are still tinkering with the shingles on the roof, while the foundation of the whole structure needs attention.

Advertising campaigns, duplication of plants and labor power in nearly every line of business still goes unchallenged, and the manufacture and sale of luxuries daily demands the skill and energy of thousands of workers.

Canada should be able to profit by the mistakes of Great Britain, made through lack of foresight during the enforcement of conscription. The Imperial Minister of National Service, Sir Auckland Geddes, is now engaged in cataloguing everybody in the country, so that the readjustments, which are imperatively necessary if Britain is to remain an effective power in the war, can be made with the greatest possible speed.

This minister recently said that the method of raising men for the army by age, whenever compulsion was resorted to, had proved in this war to be a hideous blunder. "I assure you," he told his hearers in a recent speech, "that the system of raising men by age is, in my opinion, quite inapplicable to the type of civilization which we have to-day. The recruiting of large masses of men must, I think, be carried out upon an occupation basis, and in carrying it out, of course, the actual withdrawal of the men must be conditioned by their age to some extent, and by their physical fitness; but that the occupation basis should be the real basis I, at least, am sure."

He then went on to explain how it was intended to divide the occupations of the country under four heads: First, the internal luxury trades; second, the trades of export value, but not essential because of the nature of the products; third, trades of great importance, and in some part essential to the life of the state, and, fourth, trades and occupations absolutely essential to the life of the state in peace and war. He also admitted that men had been pulled out of places where the need for them was most vital, and how it was now necessary to take men out of the army and put them back in civil life, where their skill was essential to the carrying on of certain industries. He presaged the adoption of very drastic methods in regard to certain trades employing thousands of men who would be needed in the near future for the army and navy. He said, "I want you all to realize that

this war is really going to call for the utmost effort, the utmost output of energy of which our output is capable. In the coming spring, we have got to make our maximum, and it should be an absolutely unprecedented maximum effort, otherwise we shall not within a reasonable time bring this thing to a successful conclusion."

Canada has not yet got down to the occupation basis of raising men, and so far as we are aware, is making no effort to classify labor power and resources so that the necessary readjustments can be made without loss of time.

The national service cards are manifestly useless for this task, as the government has no assurance that the majority of men responded. Besides, the enforcement of the Military Service Act has rendered them valueless as authentic records.

The woman-power of the country was not even considered as a factor, and the wealth resources completely ignored, so that it is now demonstrated that our Director of National Service failed to grasp the importance and magnitude of his task.

We have not yet raised the hundred thousand men called for by the Military Service Act, and it looks as if further classes will have to be called up. It is evident, therefore, that if Canada is to increase her production, as the Allies demand, and also maintain her army in the field up to present strength, some form of industrial conscription will have to be undertaken. This is undoubtedly the great problem that faces the Union Government to-day.

We do not think the Canadian working class will stand for industrial conscription to help bolster up capitalistic production, which has failed in a national crisis to meet the increased demands. It is inconceivable that Labor will submit to a form of compulsion unless the Government take over and operate those industries which are vital to the national welfare at this time. Labor takes this attitude because Canadian capitalists have shown every disposition during the war to take advantage of a world calamity to extort greater profits, not only from the consuming public at home, but from the soldiers through Government contracts.

Henry Ford said, when asked to supply the American Government with auto trucks, "I am ready to furnish the Government these trucks at shop cost. I will take no profit from anything produced for any Government during the war. I despise the profiteer who makes money out of war."

No Canadian manufacturer has yet made an offer like this to the Government, yet they have had a longer time to prove their patriotism.

Just as the voluntary system proved to be ineffectual in raising the required number of men for the army, so has the same system proved to be a failure in the operation of industries for the common good.

Reorganization now, or face the alternative of decreased efficiency in the near future, is what Canada is forced to decide. We stand at the parting of the ways. Which shall it be?

* * *

DEMOCRACY

"Real democracy is impossible without public opinion, and in our system the difficulty is not, as we often say, that public opinion is not enlightened. The difficulty is that public opinion does not exist. There is literally no such thing. Opinion means a view of the world; and a view of the world means an income."

—BERNARD SHAW.

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Letters from the People

LORD HUGH CECIL'S DEFENCE OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS.

Swalwell, Alta.

EDITOR NON-PARTISAN, Calgary:

Dear Sir,—I thought the following, coming from one of the most conservative families, and one of the most conservative of men, Lord Hugh Cecil, son of the late Lord Salisbury, Premier of Great Britain, would be opportune at this particular time. Lord Hugh, a bitter critic of everything concerning Democracy, must be admired for the stand he takes on behalf of that friendless being, the Conscientious Objector, who is designated here in Canada, as elsewhere, as a traitor and an outlaw. By Outlaw, I mean outside the pale of the law, not worthy of the franchise, or protection of the law, whose property should be abused, also his person, and many would advocate and be advocating the above treatment should be meted out to such Conscientious Objectors.

In course of debate on the disenfranchisement of Conscientious Objectors, Lord Hugh Cecil made the following remarks:

"We must not refuse the vote to people who are doing what they sincerely believe to be right upon moral or religious grounds, merely because WE THINK that the moral or religious grounds are mistaken. If you do not adopt that position you must disenfranchise a great many people besides Conscientious Objectors. But most of all I feel most strongly the danger of the particular error, into which the Chancellor of the Exchequer slipped last night. I am most anxious that this country should maintain the proposition that there is a higher law, that we view with admiration any appeal to that higher law, that we will not listen to the doctrine that the State's interest is to be supreme, but on the contrary, that we will make our authority conform to the highest standard, and keep the State within its proper function, and within its proper scope. Belief in the State cannot help us to bear the sufferings or control the passions of the war. It is a barren faith as well as a degrading faith. It does but encumber our cause, and shuts out from us that higher world in which we ought to live. It is like a mist that hangs around the surface of the earth, and beyond which the sun brightened sky of the higher life shines serene.

So we ought to rise if we are to face the dangers and difficulties of this war in a sincere spirit.

We should vindicate the great cause that we have in hand. We are fighting, we sometimes say, for civilization. I would rather say that we are fighting that civilization may remain a Christian civilization, and certainly according to a Christian civilization, it is wrong to force the conscience of the sincere. It is wrong to impose upon them a duty which they believe to be contaminating and corrupting.

"I hope, therefore, that this amendment will be rejected. I hope it first of all because it is a retrospective law and so contrary to all sound principles of legislation. I hope it still more because it appears to enforce the law of the State as superior to the moral law, and I am certain that if we give countenance to that way of thinking we run the danger of becoming, as I fear the Germans have some of them become, idolaters of the State, a blood-stained idol, the Moloch of our time."

Mr. Editor, when we have sentiments like this from Lord Hugh Cecil, a great churchman, one is led to believe that a great change is taking place in the thought of the world. Many of us remember how Lord Hugh's class persecuted the Conscientious Objector and passive resisters who rather went to jail than pay church rates and taxes, being Non-conformists.

Out of this great war let us hope, with Lord Hugh Cecil, that a great grand, new civilization will arise out of the ruins of the old, a great brotherhood of men that will do away with all corruption in the church as well as the government, that an introspection may take place amongst those in high places, church and government to prepare them to meet what the people will demand.

Yours truly,

TRAVOLLA.

A NEW RIDDLE.

Can You Guess It?

EDITOR NON-PARTISAN:

What is the difference between Democracy and Hypocrisy?

Now you will laugh and show your ignorance, but, judging by the general trend of the news to be had through the daily papers and magazines, there does not seem to be much difference after all.

When Russia, the most despotic government on earth, massed her troops and started the great war for Democracy she was applauded by the coming Allies as a great and noble nation, who was to help make the world safe for Democracy. And, yet, within her own borders were over 100,000 political prisoners who had dared to advocate a real Democratic government. Poverty was prevalent everywhere, and much of it the most extreme kind; so intense that dirt eaters were not common in many parts of the country while on the other hand the rulers were among the wealthiest people on earth.

Was Russia really fighting for Democracy?

If she had stayed in the war, and the Germans been conquered now, would she have won Democracy with her 100,000 political prisoners and millions of poverty stricken slaves and dirt-eaters, or would it have been Hypocrisy of the lowest order? What was there in Russia worth fighting for, where the Autocratic rule had become unbearable but was still being forced on the people by rulers who were supposed to rule by Divine right?

And now that she is making an honest effort to bring about a real representative government, where the products of labor may be more equally divided and the extreme poverty done away with, are the Allies doing the right thing to change their songs of praise into curses? Seeing that Russia's freedom must come from within would it not be well for the Allies to at least hold their tongue and subdue the curses now being heard on all sides?

And after German militarism has been subdued, and we again hear the familiar tune "Britania Rules the Waves," will Democracy have been won or will we return to the old condition as before the war where, within the British Empire, extremes of wealth and poverty and class distinction existed to a degree scarcely exceeded in any other part of the Globe. As in Dublin, Ireland, where 22% of the working people lived in one room tenement houses with an average of five to a room.

Or, in other British cities where costly limousines would glide noiselessly along the street bearing their loads of knighted humanity and passing other human beings, men, women and children, weak from the lack of proper nourishment, or debauched with alcoholic liquor from the proceeds of which the limousine may have been bought, or the occupants have earned their title.

During the early part of the war Mr. Asquith made a speech in which he intimated that after the war England was to do away with preventable poverty. And now, in the fourth year of the war, in December last, the Trades and Labor Unions of London have found it necessary to warn the Government that class distinction must stop in regards to the distribution of food, that the working class will no longer stand leaving their wives and children waiting outside shop doors almost begging for food to be sold to them.

Does not all this prove that after all the boasted Democracy the Allies are fighting for is only Hypocrisy, the mere skeleton of the genuine article, and that, in effect at least, there is little difference between German militarism and British capitalism? Does it not mean that the ravages of both must be fought to a finish before we can have anything more than Hypocrisy?

W. B. NICHOLSON,
Black Diamond, Alta.

TOO TRUE!

"What is wrong with priests and popes is that instead of being apostles and saints, they are nothing but empirics who say 'I know,' instead of, 'I am learning,' and pray for credulity and inertia as wise men pray for scepticism and activity."

—BERNARD SHAW.

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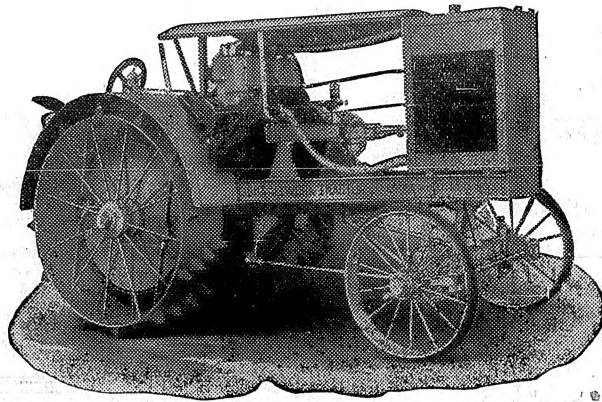
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